

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10404 300842Z

20

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 EB-11

COME-00 AID-20 TRSE-00 /166 W
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R 291417Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9972

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 8-29-75

TAGS: PFOR PLO JO EG XF

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN RESTATES POSITION VIS-A-VIS PLO AND TELLS
ARAB SUMMIT TO DECIDE

SUMMARY: IN NOTEWORTHY INTERVIEW PUBLISHED HERE AUG. 29, KING
HUSSEIN--ECHOING PRES. SADAT--ACKNOWLEDGED PLO AS "LEGITIMATE"
BUT NOT "SOLE" REP OF PALESTINIANS. ARAB STATES, HE SAID, WOULD
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 10404 300842Z

HAVE TO "CLARIFY" QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT FORTH-

COMING SUMMIT MEETING AND ACCEPT CONSEQUENCES. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED DANGERS WHICH JORDANIAN WEAKNESS VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL WOULD POSE FOR "HEART OF ARABIAN PENINSULA." END SUMMARY.

1. IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW CARRIED AUG 29 IN INDEPENDENT AL HAYAT, KING HUSSEIN APPEARED TO RESTATE JORDAN'S POSITION RE "REPRESENTIVITY" OF PALESTINIANS. SAID GOJ ACCEPTS PLO AS "LEGITIMATE" REP OF PALESTINIANS BUT NOT AS "SOLE" REP, SINCE "MAJORITY OF PALESTINIANS LIVE IN (JORDAN) AS CITIZENS ENJOYING EQUAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES."

2. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT "AMBIGUITY" EXISTS, KING DECLARED NEXT ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE "MUST CLARIFY" QUESTION OF REPRESENTATION OF PALESTINIANS. ARAB STATES COULD EITHER RECOGNIZE THAT JORDAN IS STATE RESPONSIBLE FOR LIBERATION OF ITS OCCUPIED TERRITORIES-- WHICH "OUTSIDE WORLD APPEARS TO ACCEPT"--OR TELL JORDAN TO LEAVE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PALESTINIANS AND LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO PLO. IN LATTER CASE, HUSSEIN WARNED, ARAB STATES WOULD BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSEQUENCES AND JORDAN WOULD NOT RPT NOT GO TO GENEVA.

3. HUSSEIN STATED JORDAN WAS READY TO COORDINATE EFFORTS WITH PLO, ASSERTING EACH HAD ITS ROLE, BUT HE STRESSED THAT END RESULT SHOULD BE "SELF-DETERMINATION IN FULL FREEDOM" BY PALESTINIAN PEOPLE RATHER THAN ANY IMPOSED SOLUTION.

4. IN ADDITION, KING SAID JORDAN (A) ADHERED TO ALEXANDRIA AGREEMENT; (B) INSISTED THAT MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT WITH ISRAEL OCCUR BEFORE GENEVA CONFERENCE; AND (C) MAINTAINED ULTIMATE GOAL OF RECOVERING ALL TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967, PLUS RESTORATION OF ARAB SOVEREIGNTY IN JERUSALEM.

5. QUESTIONED ABOUT JORDAN'S MILITARY PREPAREDNESS, HUSSEIN REPLIED THAT JORDAN WAS DOING ITS BEST WITH AVAILABLE MEANS BUT ACKNOWLEDGED "SHORTCOMINGS" WITH RESPECT TO OUTSIDE AUPPORT (COMPARED TO EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE ISRAEL RECEIVING) AND TO JORDAN'S DEFENSIVE POSITION (I.E., LONG BORDER WITH LIMITED MILITARY DEPTH BEHIND IT). ANY WEAKENING OF JAA, HE AVERRED, WOULD "POSE REAL DANGERS TO HEART OF ARABIAN PENINSULA."

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6. COMMENT: (A) HUSSEIN'S DISTINCTION BETWEEN "LEGITIMATE" AND "SOLE" REPRESENTATION OF PALESTINIANS, PARALLELING PRES. SADAT'S LATEST STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT (BEIRUT 10343), APPEARS INDICATE THAT COMMON UNDERSTANDING THEY REACHED AT ALEXANDRIA REMAINS MORE OR LESS INTACT, DESPITE CONCERTED FEDAYEEN CRITICISM OF ALEXANDRIA COMMUNIQUE IN RECENT WEEKS. AS RESULT, WE EXPECT THERE WILL EVEN BE MORE HELL TO PAY FROM FEDS IN DAYS AHEAD. (B) KING'S EMPHASIS ON JORDAN'S STRATEGIC

VULNERABILITY--WHICH TENDS CONJURE UP IMAGE OF ISRAELI TANKS
BARRELLING HEADLONG ACROSS ARABIA--STRIKES US AS CLEVER
PLOY TO REMIND SAUDIS AND GULF STATES OF JORDAN'S VALUABLE
BUFFER ROLE. HIS IMPLICATION IS THAT HKJ CAN PLAY THIS ROLE
ONLY SO LONG AS IT RECEIVES ADEQUATE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION RE PALESTINIANS AND OTHER ISSUES
REGARDED AS CRUCIAL BY GOJ. GODLEY

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